

# Garbage Gazette

## Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

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### Nike "Just Does It" Again

Did you know that since 1993 Nike has recycled more than 15 million pairs of athletic shoes into surfaces such as tracks, basketball courts, and playgrounds?



Last year, Connecticut (CT) contributed over 7,000 pairs of shoes to their efforts. According to Nike estimates, that means we recycled enough shoes to make almost five basketball courts!

Connecticut Recyclers Coalition (CRC) is again coordinating efforts of the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe collection in CT. CRC's goal is to collect at least 5,500 pairs of sneakers between April 1 and June 30, 2004 at events and drop-off locations throughout the state. (Nike will post all events and drop-off locations on their website.) **Any brand of sneakers regardless of condition will be accepted, but they can't have any metal (e.g. cleats, eyelets or spikes). Shoes must be kept dry.** Willimantic Waste in Willimantic will be the central collection point for the all the shoes.

CRC has limited funds to help organizations with costs associated with publicizing their events, signage or containers, if necessary. They also have a CD that contains posters that can be printed from a PC. To be part of this worthwhile project, you can:

- ★ **Have a collection event.** Schools, municipalities, organizations, scouts, etc. may host an event. *For example, make it part of your Earth Day celebration, town festival or running event.* Organizers must register the event with CRC and are responsible for transporting shoes to a regional collection area or to Willimantic Waste.
- ★ **Be a regional collection site.** Sporting good stores, malls, town halls, gyms, schools, etc. can participate by volunteering to be a drop-off site. The shoes must be kept dry and transported to Willimantic Waste before June 30, 2004. The site must be registered with CRC.
- ★ **Be a sponsor.** CRC is looking for a few good sponsors. If you can't have an event or be a drop-off site, you can still help out. Monetary, in-kind or any other sponsorships to support these events are greatly appreciated.

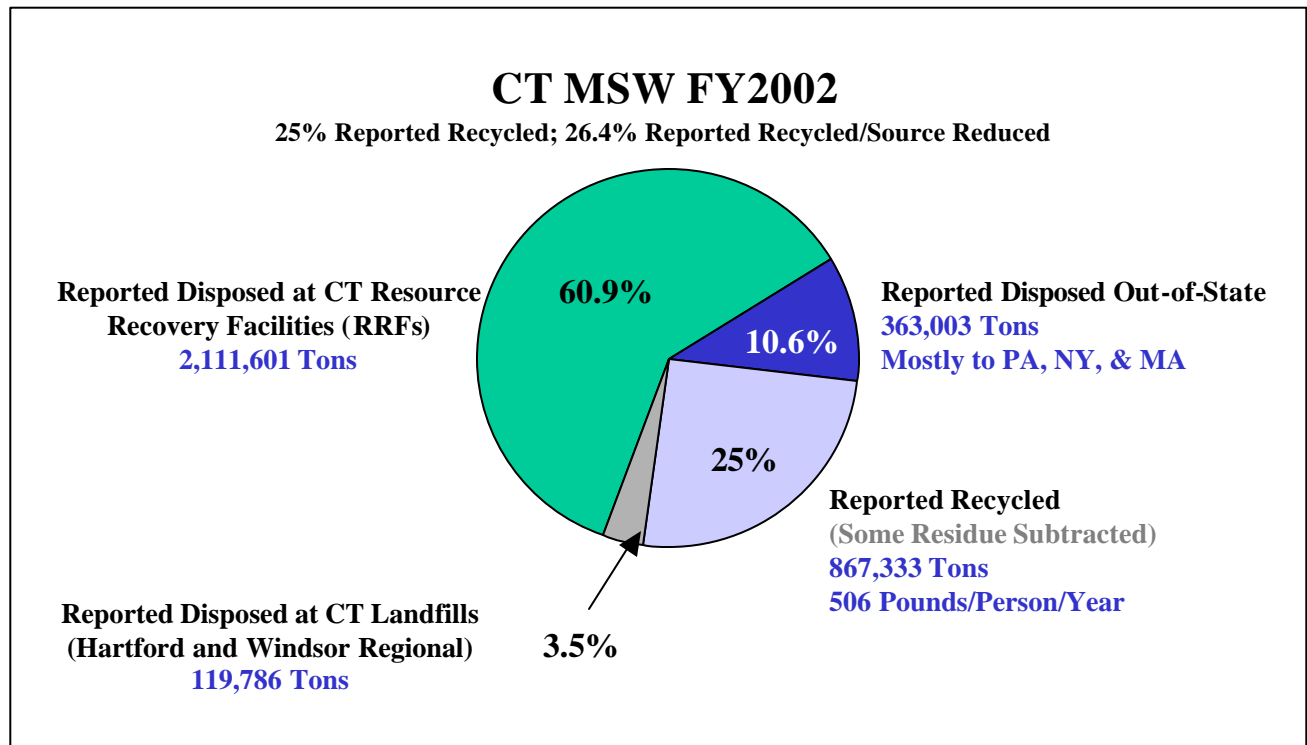
Please contact Evelyn Golden, CRC Coordinator, at Signature Marketing 860-658-7172 or via e-mail [sigcycle@aol.com](mailto:sigcycle@aol.com) for more information or to register an event.

Read more about Nike's program at

<http://www.nike.com/nikebiz/nikebiz.jhtml?page=27&cat=reuseashoe>.

## Overview of Statewide FY2002 Municipal Solid Waste Statistics

CT municipalities have already received reports for FY2002 from the Department of Environmental Protection on waste generated and materials recycled in their towns and how these numbers compare to their rates in previous years. But it is also interesting to look at the big picture - how much trash was generated and how much was recycled statewide. Since pictures often speak louder than words, an overview of CT's FY2002 municipal solid waste (MSW) management is presented in the following graphs, charts, and tables:



### CT MSW Burned at CT Resource Recovery Facilities in FY2002 (Calculated)

The following graph shows the amount of trash burned at each of the Resource Recovery Facilities (RRFs). Note: OOS indicates "Out of State".

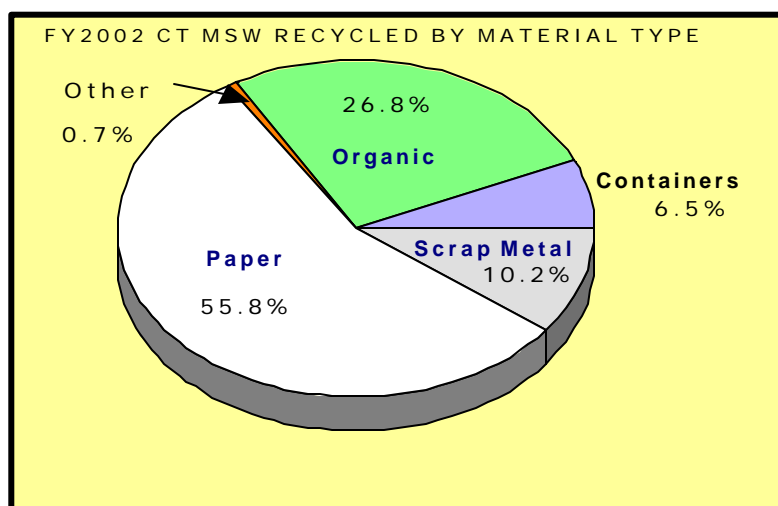
Wallingford RRF 144,294 tons CT MSW burned
Preston RRF 223,498 tons CT MSW burned; 19,025 tons received from OOS
MidCT RRF 695,439 tons CT MSW calculated burned
Lisbon RRF 138,171 tons CT MSW burned; 40,521 tons received from OOS
Bristol RRF 192,371 tons CT MSW burned; 1,919 tons received from OOS
Bridgeport RRF 717,828 tons CT MSW burned; 1,696 tons received from OOS

According to reports submitted to the CT DEP by CT disposal facilities and transfer stations, **CT residents and businesses disposed of 2,597,843 tons of MSW in FY2002 – which translates to a disposal rate of approximately 4.2 lbs of MSW per person per day (at home and at work).**

## CT's FY2002 MSW Recycling Statistics

Based on reports submitted to the CT DEP by municipalities and CT recycling facilities, **CT recycled 867,333 tons of MSW in FY2002 - which translates to 1.4 pounds per person per day and a recycling rate of approximately 25% ("recycling/source-reduction" rate is approximately 26.4%).**

This may seem like an increase from last year's rate of 24.6%, but the difference is more likely due to the different methodology used for calculating the rate. Although not as under-reported as in previous years, the "reported" recycling/source reduction rate still underestimates the actual recycling rate. There is more recycling going on than is evidenced by the reported numbers. For example, we are not getting reports on material recycled through the bottle bill, commercially recycled scrap metal and waste oil, storage batteries, commercial material recycled directly to mills or through central warehouses and distribution centers, etc. So our actual recycling/source reduction rate is probably closer to 29%.



CT has come a long way in realizing a successful recycling program – but we can, and need, to do better, so **KEEP ON RETHINKING, REDUCING, REUSING, AND RECYCLING!**



## Environmental Benefits of CT's Recycling Efforts

The following are estimates of the environmental impacts of CT recycling efforts using reported CT FY2001 data. These estimates were calculated using the *Northeast Recycling Council (NERC)'s Environmental Benefits Calculator*. Estimates for FY2002 would be comparable because the data is similar.

- **Recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions.**

CT recycling efforts reduced greenhouse gas emissions by about **340,000 metric tons of carbon equivalent per year, equal to approximately 19.1% of all industrial carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion in the state and 3.0% of greenhouse gas emissions.** By reducing the amount of energy used by industry, recycling also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and helps stem the dangers of global climate change. This reduction is because much of the energy used in industrial processes and in transportation involves burning fossil fuels like gasoline, diesel and coal -- the most important sources of carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions into the environment.

- **Recycling saves energy.**

CT's recycling efforts saved a total of **6.9** trillion BTUs of energy, equal to nearly **3.5%** of all energy used by industry in the state, which has a value of **\$35** million dollars. This energy savings is also an amount equal to **1.2** million barrels of oil saved or **104,661** cars off the road. This energy savings is enough power for nearly **66,000** homes for one year. Energy savings may be the most important environmental benefit of recycling, because using energy requires the consumption of fossil fuels and involves emissions of numerous air and water pollutants. The steps in supplying recycled materials to industry (including collection, processing and transportation) typically use less energy than the steps in supplying virgin materials to industry (including extraction, refinement, transportation and processing). Most energy savings associated with recycling accrue in the manufacturing process itself, since recycled materials have already been processed at least once.

For more details regarding CT's FY2002 MSW statistics, contact Judy Belaval, 860-424-3237 or [judy.belaval@po.state.ct.us](mailto:judy.belaval@po.state.ct.us).

You can use the calculator to determine the environmental benefits resulting from the recycling efforts of your town, school, or business by accessing the calculator from the NERC website at [www.nerc.org/documents/aboutcalc1003.html](http://www.nerc.org/documents/aboutcalc1003.html).

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**Just a reminder... Household Hazardous Waste Collections begin soon.**

- For the collection schedule, go to [www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm).
- For pollution prevention information, including alternatives to household toxic cleaning products, go to [www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2/individual/indiv&fam.htm](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2/individual/indiv&fam.htm).

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Department of Environmental Protection, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106  
Arthur J. Rocque, Jr., Commissioner, [www.dep.state.ct.us/](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/)  
Nan Peckham, Editor, 860-424-3357